

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for replaying a predefined path through a set of web pages comprising:

selecting a saved request corresponding to a saved URL from a request history;

if the saved request is a form request, selecting a best-fit form from a set of forms in an originating web page as a target URL;

if the saved request is not the form request, selecting a best-fit URL in the originating web page as the target URL; and

sending a replay request to the target URL.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the replay request includes a set of replay form parameters.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the set of replay form parameters comprises:

a set of saved form parameters; and

a set of merged form parameters, wherein the set of merged form parameters includes from the current configuration of the originating web page.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein selecting a best-fit form comprises: rejecting a potential form if the URL of the potential form does not begin with the saved URL;

if the form request is a POST, rejecting a remaining form from a set of remaining forms if the remaining form does not require each parameter that would be included in the replay form parameters if the replay request was made for the remaining form;

if the set of remaining forms still contains more than one remaining form, rejecting all remaining forms from the set of remaining forms which do not require all hidden form parameters in the set of saved form parameters; and

if there is still more than one remaining form in the set of remaining forms, selecting a best-fit form from the set of remaining forms in a predetermined manner, otherwise choosing the one remaining form in the set of remaining forms as the best-fit form.

5. The method of Claim 3, wherein selecting the best-fit form further comprises:

rejecting a potential form if the URL of the potential form does not begin  
5 with the saved URL;

if the form request is a GET, rejecting a remaining form from a set of  
remaining forms if the remaining form does not require all hidden form  
parameters included in the saved form parameters;

if the set of remaining forms still contains more than one remaining form,  
10 rejecting a second remaining form from the set of remaining forms that does not  
require all the form parameters that would be included in the replay form  
parameters if a replay request was made to the second remaining form; and

if there is still more than one remaining form in the set of remaining forms,  
15 selecting a best-fit form from the set of remaining forms in a predetermined  
manner, otherwise choosing the one remaining form in the set of remaining forms  
as the best-fit form.

6. The method of Claim 1, selecting a best-fit URL further comprises:

if the URL of a link exactly matches the saved URL, selecting the link as  
20 the best-fit URL;

if the URL of the link does not exactly match saved URL, selecting a  
nonmatching URL located at an address associated with the saved request as  
the best-fit URL.

25 7. The method of Claim 6, further comprising, if the nonmatching URL  
partially matches the saved URL, selecting the nonmatching URL as the best-fit  
URL.

30 8. The method of Claim 7, further comprising appending a string  
contained in the saved request to the nonmatching URL to form the URL for the  
replay request.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the replay request includes a set of headers so that a target web page returns the same contents as if the replay request were made from a particular type of browser.

5           10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the replay request includes a set of cookies, and the set of cookies contains a modified cookie corresponding to a saved cookie, wherein the modified cookie has been modified such that a target web page returns content as if the replay request were made by a new user.

10           11. The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining whether the saved request is a POST or a GET.

12. A method for replaying a predefined path through a set of web pages comprising:

(a) selecting a saved request corresponding to a saved URL from a request history;

5 (b) if the saved request is a form request, selecting a best-fit form from a set of forms in a originating web page as a target URL;

(c) if the saved request is not the form request, selecting a best-fit URL in the originating web page as the target URL;

(d) sending a replay request to the target URL; and

10 (e) repeating steps (a) through (d) until each saved request from the request history has been replayed.

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13. A system for replaying a predefined path through a set of web pages comprising:

a computer readable medium; and

5 a set of software instructions stored on the computer readable medium operable to cause a computer to:

select a saved request corresponding to a saved URL from a request history

if the saved request is a form request, select a best-fit form from a set of forms in a originating web page as a target URL; and

10 if the saved request is not the form request, select a best-fit URL in the originating web page as the target URL; and

send a replay request to the target URL.

14. The system of Claim 13, wherein the replay request includes a set of replay form parameters.

15 15. The system of Claim 14, wherein the set of replay form parameters includes:

a set of saved form parameters; and

20 a set of merged form parameters, wherein the set of merged form parameters includes parameters from the current configuration of the originating web.

25 16. The system of Claim 15, wherein the software instructions are further operable to select a best-fit form by:

rejecting a potential form if the URL of the potential form does not begin with the saved URL;

30 if the form request is a POST, rejecting a remaining form from a set of remaining forms if the remaining form does not contain each parameter that would be included in the replay form parameters if the replay request were made for the remaining form;

if the set of remaining forms contains more than one remaining form, rejecting all remaining forms from the set of remaining forms which do not require all hidden form parameters in the set of saved form parameters; and

if is still more than one remaining form in the set of remaining forms selecting a best-fit form from the set of remaining forms in a predetermined manner, otherwise selecting the one remaining form in the set of remaining forms as the best-fit form in a predetermined manner.

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17. The system of Claim 15, wherein the software instructions are further operable to select a best-fit form by:

rejecting a potential form if a target form URL does not begin with a URL corresponding the saved URL;

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if the form request is a GET, rejecting a remaining form from a set of remaining forms if the remaining form does not require all hidden form parameters included in the saved form parameters;

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if the set of remaining forms contains more than one remaining form, rejecting a second remaining form from the set of remaining forms if the second remaining form does not require all the form parameters that would be included in the replay form parameters if a replay request were made for the second remaining form; and

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if there is still more than one remaining form in the set of remaining forms selecting a best-fit form from the set of remaining forms in a predetermined fashion, otherwise selecting the one remaining form in the set of remaining forms as the best-fit form.

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18. The system of Claim 13, wherein the software instructions are further operable to select a best-fit URL by:

if the URL of a link exactly matches the saved URL, selecting the link as the best-fit URL;

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if the URL of the link does not exactly match saved URL, selecting a nonmatching URL located at an address associated with the saved request as the best-fit URL.

19. The system of Claim 18, wherein the software instructions are further operable to select a best-fit URL by:

selecting the nonmatching URL as the best-fit URL if the nonmatching URL partially matches the saved URL.

5           20. The system of Claim 19, wherein the software instructions are further operable to cause a computer to append a string contained in the saved URL to the nonmatching URL in order to form the URL in the replay request.

10           21. The system of Claim 13, wherein the replay request includes a set of headers so that a target web page returns the same contents as if the replay request were made from a particular type of browser.

15           22. The system of Claim 13, wherein the replay request includes a set of cookies, and the set of cookies contains a modified cookie corresponding to a saved cookie, wherein the modified cookie has been modified such that a target web page returns content as if the replay request was made by a new user.

          23. The system of Claim 13, wherein the software program is further operable to determine whether a saved request is a POST or a GET.

24. A system for replaying a predefined path through a set of web pages comprising:

an intermediate server including:

a computer readable medium;

a computer processor; and

a database; and

a set of software instructions stored on the computer readable medium such that the computer processor is operable to:

select a saved request corresponding to a saved URL from a request history, wherein the request history is stored on the database;

if the saved request is a starting URL request, select a starting URL as a target URL;

if the saved request is the form request, select a best-fit form from a set of forms in a originating web page as the target URL; and

if the saved request is not the form request, select a best-URL in the originating web page as the URL

send a replay request to the target URL.

25. The system of Claim 24, wherein the replay request includes a set of headers so that a target web page returns the same contents as if the replay request were made from a particular type of browser.

26. The method of Claim 25, wherein the replay request includes a set of cookies, and the set of cookies contains a modified cookie corresponding to a saved cookie, wherein the modified cookie has been modified such that a target web page returns content as if the replay request were made by a new user.

27. A method for creating a path through a set of web pages and replaying the path comprising:

saving a path, wherein saving a path further comprises;

receiving a first user request for an originating web page;

saving the first user request in a request history at an intermediate

server;



forwarding the first user request to a target web server;  
receiving the originating web page from the target web server;  
mediating the originating web page to refer to an intermediate  
server;  
5 forwarding the originating web page to the user;  
receiving an additional user request for a target web page, wherein  
the additional user request is based on the mediated content of the originating  
web page; and  
recording the additional user request in the request history; and  
10 replaying a path, wherein replaying a path further comprises:  
selecting a saved request from the request history;  
if the saved request corresponds to a starting URL, selecting the  
starting URL as the target URL;  
if the saved request is a form request, selecting a best-fit form  
15 from a current configuration of the originating web page as the target URL;  
if the saved request is not a form request, selecting a best-fit URL  
from the current configuration of the originating as the target URL; and  
making a replay request to the target URL.